



**CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA**  
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July, 16, 2012

Chairman Michael Antonovich  
Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Mail Stop 99-3-1  
Los Angeles, Ca 90012-2952

Dear Supervisor Antonovich:

I was dismayed to learn of your decision to replace me on the Metrolink Board of Directors. This action came as a surprise not only to me, but to other elected officials across Los Angeles, Ventura, San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside counties.

As you know, I have faithfully and diligently served on the Metrolink Board for over six years and feel that I have played an important role in rebuilding the agency to make it one of the best local commuter rail agencies in the nation. You are aware that among the day to day duties as a Board Member, I took on additional responsibilities to serve on the Metrolink litigation subcommittee that oversaw and directed counsel, insurance firms, and other parties to create the Chatsworth crash settlement fund which was used to provide over \$200 million in a settlement pool for the victims of the tragedy. Additionally, I spent countless hours over the span of close to a year to interview and narrow a field of close to one hundred candidates and ultimately recommend to the Board a highly qualified attorney for the position of General Counsel. I have travelled to Washington DC to meet and lobby U.S. Senators and members of Congress for the funding to make Positive Train Control (PTC), - safety feature that no other agency in the Nation has - a reality for Metrolink.

I have worked diligently to advance the "sealed corridor" concept through the Los Angeles region, including upgrading one of the most dangerous series of crossings in the City of Glendale. On the MTA Board, I authored, co-authored or supported every motion which dealt with improving track condition, safety, increased service, and station upgrades for the Antelope Valley Line serving the residents from Downtown LA to Lancaster and

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Palmdale. Further, I have supported the advancement of placing a train station at Burbank Bob Hope Airport. Access to this airport is critical to the residents of the Antelope Valley. As one of only two licensed attorneys on the Metrolink Board, I believe that I bring a "professional" perspective in the discussion of litigation and legal issues in our closed sessions.

I am not trying to present you with an exhaustive list of my contributions to Metrolink and the Antelope Valley, but only to highlight some of the more important. And it is with the backdrop and history of these accomplishments and efforts that I find your decision to replace me so confusing. Metrolink faces continued immediate challenges: rate hikes, infrastructure improvements, PTC implementation and a search for a new CEO. It is incumbent that during these challenging times for the agency the MTA retain, as its appointee, a Board Member with transportation and rail experience, and a cool steady hand to represent the MTA and all the residents of the County of Los Angeles.

It is completely understandable that you want to bring in an individual with a greater sensitivity to the needs of the Palmdale/Lancaster than to the county as a whole. May I suggest that you appoint instead Mr. Lackey of Palmdale to serve as my alternate on the Board. As you know, alternates have full participation and discussion rights and Mr. Lackey could express the views and concerns of Lancaster and Palmdale at all times, and cast a vote in my absence. If you desire further representation from that area, you may also consider appointing Mr. Fox of Lancaster as your alternate on the Board.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to reconsider your decision to replace me on the Metrolink Board.

Very Truly Yours,

Ara Najarian  
Councilmember